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**From:** Walter Lamb [landtrust@ballona.org]  
**Sent:** 1/30/2019 7:32:37 PM  
**To:** Yelensky, Erica [Yelensky.Erica@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Wang, Guangyu@Waterboards [Guangyu.Wang@waterboards.ca.gov]; Tom Ford [tford@santamonicabay.org]; Bacalan, Vince [Bacalan.Vince@epa.gov]; Louis, Gail [Louis.Gail@epa.gov]; Coupe, David@Waterboards [david.coupe@waterboards.ca.gov]  
**Subject:** Re: Public Participation in SMBNEP Program Evaluation  
**Flag:** Follow up

Welcome back, Erica! I am sure that you are working through a significant backlog due to the shutdown. I just want to make sure that this request for active public participation in the SMBNEP Program Evaluation is on your radar screen. When you have time, please let me know Region 9's thoughts on this request.

Thank you,

Walter

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Walter Lamb  
Ballona Wetlands Land Trust  
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On Mon, Jan 7, 2019 at 10:53 AM Walter Lamb <[landtrust@ballona.org](mailto:landtrust@ballona.org)> wrote:

Hi Erica,

I hope you enjoyed the holidays and are having a great 2019 so far! as you are likely aware, multiple stakeholder groups expressed interest in participating in the 2014 Program Evaluation for the National Estuary Program at Santa Monica Bay, for which the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission is the management conference. No meaningful public participation in that process was provided at that time. The Land Trust believes that lack of stakeholder participation resulted in a superficial evaluation that failed to substantively identify issues requiring immediate attention, which in turn caused avoidable problems for the management of SMBRC over the subsequent period. This shortcoming should be corrected in the current Program Evaluation process.

Stakeholder involvement, transparency and accountability are central tenets of the National Estuary Program. As such, I am eager to hear EPA Region 9's plan for public participation in the current PE process. Specifically, the Land Trust respectfully recommends the following components of public participation:

- At least one stakeholder meeting with EPA staff present to interactively communicate concerns and recommendations. (proposed 2 hours)
- On-site field trip to the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve to visualize positive and negative developments in this critical watershed ecosystem, which has long been a top priority in the Bay Restoration Plan (CCMP), and for which SMBRC was still acknowledging a central role at the time of the last evaluation. (proposed 2 hours)

- Opportunity to provide written comments and documentation to a draft Program Evaluation before a final Program Evaluation is published. (time commitment depends on number of comments received)

The Land Trust is eager to assist in any way we can, whether that be by coordinating the logistics of any meetings and site visits, paying for transportation around the ecological reserve, buying refreshments, etc.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Walter

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